have taken several measures which have benefited the readymade garments industry, including the small scale readymade garment units. These include introduction of a unified market determined exchange rate system, convertibility of the rupee on current account, facilitating import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, increased availability of export credit, permission to retain foreign exchange receipts to the extent of 25 per cent in foreign currency account, encouraging participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller-Meets, Fairs, Exhibitions etc.

Export of banians

7626. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total exports of banians from the country:

(b) what was the foreign exchange earnings for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993;

(c) which state is exporting major portion; and

(d) what are the encouragement programme by Government to step up banian production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (b) The export figures of banians are not maintained separately. The exports of T. Shirts, under which banians are also covered, during 1991, 1992 and 1993 ware as follows hance earned

	Qty (Lakh P s)	Velu (Milllon US$)
1991	1161	229
1992	1443	304
1993	1930	459

Source : Apparel Export Promotion. Council Products.

(c) The major portion of cotton hosiery/including banian is exported from Tamil Nadu.

(d) In order to encourage the export of readymade garments including banian, Government have taken a number of steps which include introduction of a unified market determined exchange rate system, convertibility of the rupee on current account, facilitating import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, increased availabilty of export credit, permission to retain foreign exchange receipts to the extent of 25 per cent in foreign country account, encouraging participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller-Meets, Fairs, Exhibition etc.

Hike in Prices of cotton and cotton yarn

7627. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the textile industry has been adversely affected due to hike in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn:

(b) if so, the extent of price rise and reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Central Govenment have received any representation in this context;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Govrenment thereon; and

(e) the other measures being taken by Government to check the rise in the prices of cotton and to provide yarn to handloom weavers at subsidised rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b) Textile Industry as a whole has not been affected by the hike in the prices of cotton and cotton yarn. However, due to increase in yarn prices between November, 93 and April 1994 reports of closure of weaving sections in powerloom and handloom sectors in some parts of the country were received. The main reasons of the steep rise